The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1921, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C. under the Act of August 24, 1912. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 20, 1921.

VOL. 11. NO. 5. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1921. WHOLE NO. 525.

JUDICIAL USURPERS . . . : HAVE SLIPPERY DEFENDERS

The declaration by trade union representatives at their recent Washington conference that workers should disregard labor injunctions has brought every slippery defender of judicial usurpation to the fore.

The eel-like advisers (?) of labor assume to possess a knowledge of the injunction process, but confess their ignorance when they insist that labor should "observe the constitution."

Labor injunctions are not based on the constitution.

And the legislative enactments by state-never empowered courts to issue these writs, which are court usurpation and can not be defended except on the slave theory that labor is a commodity.

The injunction, as originally intended, is a necessary part of our judicial system. It is for the protection of property and property rights where the plaintiff has no recourse at law. It was never intended to interfere with personal rights.

But in late years courts have departed from the purpose of the injunction.

The courts have revived the slave theory that labor is property and workers on strike are enjoined from exercising personal activities that are legal beyond question if no strike exists.

Under the labor injunction speech is gagged, the dollar placed above constitutional guarantees and the judge assumes the role of lawmaker, judge executioner combined, with no trial by jury and sentence to suit the whim of the court.

Those who advise labor to secure injunction relief "through constitutional methods and observe the law" should give this advice to the courts.

For years labor has appealed to state courts for relief. In some cases this has been successful, but state supreme courts have set the act aside.

The Massachusetts legislature declared that labor was not a commodity; that to labor is a personal right. The state supreme court replied that labor is a commodity, and outlawed the act.

The same situation is found nationally. Congress passed the Clayton law, wherein is stated that labor is not a commodity or article of commerce—that it is not property.

At its first opportunity the Duplex-Machinists' case—the United States supreme court nullified that declaration.

These discards for law by the courts are ignored by slippery advisers (?) of labor who add to the gaiety of the nations by lecturing labor on law observance.

"Wall Street Control" Is Grim Fact

Chicago, April 23.—"The power of Wall street is not fiction but grim fact, according to a 125,000-word document filed with the railway labor board by W. Jett Lauck, economist for the railway trade unions.

Mr. Lauck names 12 New York financial institutions that control a majority of the country's important railroads, and 18 that control public raw materials. This is accomplished through interlocking directorates, these banks, who have interlocked their interests in 31 class 1 railroads, in 25 coal railroad companies and 24 coal railroads, in 30 iron and steel companies, banking directors they combine is still further interlocked.

"The public knows," says the survey, "that there is a capital combine consisting of the major banks, the railroads and basic industries controlling basic materials, and that this combine has set out to practice a power over the economic destiny of the United States. It knows also that this financial capitalist group lies the power to subjugate industrial activity, in such a manner that will stimulate or suppress industrial activity.

"It knows that this financial capitalist group has deliberately maintained high prices of steel, equipment and other basic materials, and that the railroads financed by the same banks have refused to replace the cars for plant maintenance or even the orders necessary to prevent rust and equipment deterioration.

"The exhibit shows that the greater factors in American industry—the railway equipment producers—all are closely bound together by intercapital relations and interlocking directories, coming to work in the house of Morgan.

"The industrial paralysis, which has staggered America, is 'capital strike against society,' and capital, national and international, organized and concentrated, takes the stand that the 'capital strike' shall go on until labor comes to its knees and consents to the permanent reductions of wages, and also consents to surrender its right to bargain collectively on a scale extensive with the organization of the employers."

It is shown that while agricultural basic raw materials have been reduced to the minimum, maintained prices for the mineral products, and that the combine controlling the mineral products, is also stated that "the combine is binding up the prices of steel and other railway supplies with a view of accentuating the depression and of compelling the railroads to buy at the peak of prices, while public railways cannot agree with the railway equipment manufacturers in a manner that will stimulate or suppress industrial activity.

"It proves that this financial capitalist group has deliberately maintained high prices of steel, equipment and other basic materials, and that the railroads financed by the same banks have refused to replace the cars for plant maintenance or even the orders necessary to prevent rust and equipment deterioration.

"The exhibit shows that the

SAYS ESCH FAVORS ROADS.

Washington, April 22.—As a member of the committee on interstate commerce, Representative Esch presented a minority report on the appointment of former Congressman Esch of the interstate commerce commission. The report stated that he always favored the Esch law, and in his speeches and votes has been one of consistent friendliness to the railroads.

"However able or honest he may be," the report said, "Mr. Esch should not be confirmed for appointment of the interstate commerce commission unless the senate desires to perpetuate the ruinous policy under which the transportation system has collapsed and which has burdened the consuming public with the unjust charges."

The majority of the committee favored the appointment and this was accepted by Mr. Mays, La Follette, Trammell and Wadsworth (Ga.) voting no.

Mr. Esch represented the La Crosse, Wis., district in congress for many years. He is joint author of the Cummins-Esch railroad bill and was defeated for re-election last fall as a result of the non-partisan policy of the A. F. of L.

MANY MINERS ARE IDLE.

Washington, April 22.—Output of bituminous coal mines for the week April 2 dropped to 6,750,000 tons, or approximately 3,000,000 tons below the average regarded as ordinarily safe, reports the National Coal association today. Many of the mines are running at "only half capacity, with 500,000 miners idle."

The association blames the inability by increased wages would rock the nation with "strikes like it 100,000 miners suspended work to better their conditions." Last year's drop in coal production "below the average regarded as ordinarily safe."

STEWART REAPPOINTED.

Washington, April 22.—The president has reappointed Ethelbert Stewart commissioner of labor statistics. Anderson has been reappointed director of the women's bureau of the department of labor. Both appointees have held their positions for some time. Mr. Stewart succeeding Dr. Royal Meeker, who he resigned to associate with the labor department of the league of nations at Geneva.

AGAINST REDUCTIONS.

Albany, N. Y., April 23.—Reports received at the office of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers indicates an almost unanimous rejection of a proposed 15 per cent wage cut and establishment of one hour less per day.

WAGES ARE NOT "HIGH."

Chicago, April 23.—By a vote of 2,742 to 1,804 the bricklayers and masons' unions rejected the bosses' plan to cut wages "to stimulate building."

Officers of this union show that the bricklayers' wage of $10 a day is not high, when it is considered that 100 days a year is the average work.

"Most of our men have more than four in their families. Where do they get off with a wage of $1,000 a year?" these unionists ask.

In reply to the claim that labor gets 61 per cent of the money that goes into a building the following is given as a "practical" estimate for $6,000 building of six rooms, 24x46, $1,740; 27 per cent, brick work, $180; plumbing, $80, and electrical and shingling, $30 each.

"COMPANY" UNION PAYS.

Danville, Va., April 23.—The company "union" operating in the Dan river textile mills has voted for wage reductions. This "union" has been publicly advertised in the capitalist press as "industrial democracy." It is formed along the lines of the national government with a house, senate and cabinet. The workers have no voice in the house, but the higher up they go the less voice they have. The cabinet, composed of textile mill executives, is the management, has the last word on all questions. The workers are compelled to accept, however, whatever is handed down from the final orders. This scheme of "industrial democracy" is patterned after the Russian soviets.

FILLS RAIL LABOR BOARD.

Washington, April 22.—President Harding has appointed three men to fill vacancies created by death of the railway labor board of Henry T. Hunt of Cincinnati, representing the employers; Warren S. Stone of the brotherhood of Railway Clerks, representing labor, and W. L. Clark of Illinois, representing the railroads.

The new appointees are Ben W. Hooper, Republican governor of Tennessee, representing the public; Walter H. McMennen of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, representing labor, and Samuel Higgins of New York, representing the employers.

DON'T WANT PEACE.

Hartford, Conn., April 21.—The state chamber of commerce has asked that would create a commission of employers and employes to act as a labor commissioner, to investigate disputes and attempt to adjust them. Governor Lake vetoed the bill.

REJECTS SOLDIERS' BILL

Trenton, N. J., April 23.—Governor Edwards has refused to sign a bill for ex-soldiers' preference in public employment, passed by the legislature. The governor said the bill was loosely drawn and that it failed to show any difference between the "swiveled chair" service man and actual fighting soldiers.

An Unattractive Industry Will Drive Workers to Farm

Fredericton, N. B., Canada, April 22.—If the legislative program of New Brunswick trade unionists is adopted it will lure workers to the city, and this condition should not exist, declare local business men at a conference in which the workers' proposed legislation was opposed. In its appeal to the government to reject these demands, the employers said:

"One feature we would particularly remind you of, when considering the enactment of so-called labor legislation is, that all enactments which tend to make the conditions surrounding the employment in industrial centers more attractive and favorable to wage earners employed in those centers, in comparison with those employed in agricultural and rural districts, tend to intensify the migration from these districts to the industrial centers. Ways and means should be considered toward alleviating this serious condition of migration rather than rendering it more aggravating it."

The objectionable legislation includes compensation for accidents, restriction of child labor and the eight-hour day.

Greater educational facilities demanded by the workers is afraid set aside by the employers with the claim that this is a matter of "public policy."

"One Big Union" Blows Up; Crafty Vote Hunters Unmasked

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, April 23.—"The death knell of the one big union has been tolled," says the Alberta Labor News, which refers to the withdrawal from the A. F. of L. lumber workers, who are declared to be the only section of the one big union that has ever functioned."

The lumber workers have set up an independent union and are now denouncing their former colleagues as "political leaders and orators."

Secretary Berg of the new organization of lumber workers says "the membership were blindly led into the trap that had been carefully laid by these [would-be leaders and as a result the one big union is only a one big union in name."

The Alberta Labor News says the great mass of workers who joined the one big union were sincere, but that in the process of history and the theory of those who formed their "leaders."

"The end would not," says the Labor News, "have understood the philosophy of the men who launched the movement and they would have known that the move was political and not economic. The results would have been ignorant of the historic working class organization, its failures, its successes, and its methods, have seen the impotence of the thing they were being led into."

ROADS INVITED TIE UP.

Washington, April 23.—"The reason for the present plight of the railroads is their illegal and dishonest expenditure of money for maintenance and the prohibitory rates which have stalled traffic," said Senator La Follette, in an address before the people's legislative league.

La Follette assailed the Cummins-Esch act and declared that the railroad heads were the authors of this legislation.

"Having dictated the terms of this law," he said, "and having failed completely to put the transportation system on a sound basis under its operation, the railroad heads are again here in Washington preparing to make another raid on congress.

"Any difficulties that the carriers are now under due to misfeasance before government control and to artificial and malicious obstructions by men in high railroad places to make the system fail.

"The public will soon learn the truth will be known about the sabotage they practiced in order to discredit the operation of the administration."

La Follette declared that mismanagement and not high wages is responsible for the present condition of the railroads. He then read hundreds of affidavits of men who were employed on the railroads who stated under oath," he said, "that they were ordered and required to execute orders that blockaded transportation, orders which they understood and abhorred the work, orders which destroyed material."

SING POVERTY SONG.

Washington, April 23.—The federal trade commission insists that high prices of coal is one of the major reasons for present industrial conditions and during hearings the association says that the cost of producing bituminous coal is only 27 cents a ton, and that ordinarily the profit "is much less than the figure."

The association made the interesting statement that miners' strikes do not affect annual production, and that the problem of distributing coal has assumed a sufficient number of coal cars.

FILLS RAIL LABOR BOARD.

Washington, April 22.—President Harding has appointed three men to fill vacancies created by death of the railway labor board of Henry T. Hunt of Cincinnati, representing the employers; Warren S. Stone of the brotherhood of Railway Clerks, representing labor, and W. L. Clark of Illinois, representing the railroads.

The new appointees are Ben W. Hooper, Republican governor of Tennessee, representing the public; Walter H. McMennen of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, representing labor, and Samuel Higgins of New York, representing the employers.

DON'T WANT PEACE.

Hartford, Conn., April 21.—The state chamber of commerce has asked that would create a commission of employers and employes to act as a labor commissioner, to investigate disputes and attempt to adjust them. Governor Lake vetoed the bill.

THUGS' STORY DENIED.

Williamson, W. Va., April 23.—Thomas B. Chapman, foreman of the jury that acquitted Bid Hatfield and 18 others charged with the death of Albert C. Felts, denies the claim of Tom Felts, head of the Baldwin-Felts detective agency, that because the "swiveled chair" service man and actual fighting soldiers.

CONVENTION SYSTEM CAN KEEP WOMEN OUT

Cleveland, April 23.—Agitation to abolish the convention system and return to the convention system is an attempt to nullify women's votes, declared Albert J. Beveridge, former United States senator from Indiana, in a speech before the national league of women voters.

"The convention system," said the senator, "is a politician's primary, autocratic, "framed," and gives the average citizen no voice. Under its operation only 10 per cent of voters, male, took part; in the direct primary 50 per cent have taken part. Its obstacles to popular participation so eliminated the decent middle citizen that women scarcely could be expected to have a part at all in the convention system. The convention has proved its dishonesty; the primary has proved it is, to say the least, partly crookedness."

In reply to the charge that the primary system is costly the speaker referred to the recent senatorial race in Michigan, which received no much publicity.

"The Michigan case is a survival of the old-time practice and is certain not to happen again in any of the states where there is not that case. But under the convention system, the debauchery was the rule; it seldom was exposed and was never punished.

"Every politician in the land that seeks special privileges at the expense of the people is against the primary—now and against votes for women.

"Substantially all the men and forces which, through the convention system, once ruled political parties, are now against the primary system—and were against votes for women.

"Why did not those who hate this direct nominating primary become militant against it when by a majority of the nineteenth amendment? Why was this hostility to the primary galvanized into practical effort to repeal the primary everywhere only after women everywhere became voters—and immediately after that historic event?"

DEFENDS AMERICANISM.

Washington, April 23.—A bill introduced by Senator Borah provides for a fine of $5,000 and five years imprisonment, or both, for any officer or agent of the United States in the civil, military or naval service who injures, oppresses, threatens or intimidates any person in the free exercise of enjoyment of any right or privilege secured or guaranteed to him by the constitution or laws of the United States."

Heavy penalties are also provided where an officer or agent of the government attempts to interfere with the right of citizens to peaceably promote agitate for or discuss any new statute of the United States or amendments of the constitution of the United States or any proposed law or legislative, executive or administrative action, the carrying out of which, under the constitution of the United States, would fall within the scope of federal legislative power or involve an amendment of the United States constitution."

Severe penalties are also provided where an officer or agent of the government seizes papers or other property of any person or law or enters a hall or other meeting place for the purpose of breaking up the meeting. In addition to fines and imprisonment, the offender shall be discharged from the service of the United States.

WANT JUDGE APPOINTED.

Charleston, W. Va., April 22.—The house of delegates has passed a law empowering the governor to create a criminal court in Mingo county and to appoint a judge, who shall hold office until 1924.

This plan is the most brazen yet devised by coal owners and other special interests to strengthen their hold on the people of this state, and to put the voters of Mingo county will have the right to the selection of criminal judges and the trial of cases affecting the miners charged with 'the murder of Baldwin-Felts detectives will be before a judge who has been appointed by the governor.

The defenders of this law plead that "it is not safe" to hold an election in Mingo county at this time.

Opponents of the plan ask: "It is not safe for whom?"

"MEDDLESOME OLD FOGIES."

Detroit, Mich., April 22.—"Meddlesome old fogies who cannot tell the fore finger of an ox from a hoe" was the term applied to the Detroit chamber of commerce by Secretary Hunter of the Seamen's Union of Atlantic and Waterfronters' union.

The seamen's leader yesterday denounced the seamen's law, while refusing to permit members of the organization to appear personally beside of the case. Secretary Hunter said that E. J. Mathews, chairman of the business men's conference admitted that he had been on board but one ship in his life, and that he never read the seamen's law. Maclean promised the union that he would Secretary Hunter and them on the program and then forget his promises.

FREIGHT RATES A MENACE.

Washington, April 22.—Railroad freight rates are so high that they threaten to remake the geographical and industrial map of the United States, declared Secretary of Commerce Hoover. The federal official said it costs 30 cents to ship a bushel of wheat from Minneapolis to New York by rail and the same amount to ship a bushel from New York to Argentine, South America, or Australia by water. The speaker declared that if railroad rates are not lowered quickly there will be a shifting of agricultural industry.

EXTEND WOMEN'S LAW.

Boston, April 23.—Governor Cox has signed a bill which extends the women's 48-hour law to motion picture houses, theaters, hotels, dressing establishments, manicuring parlors, telephone operators in private exchanges and women elevator operators.

WANT LESS HOURS.

San Francisco, April 23. — The Cracker Bakers' union has asked employers to reduce the hours of from nine to eight hours and increase wages 50 cents a day.

BIG BIZ HAS AN ALIBI WHEN PET PLAN SLIPS

Winnetka, Ill., April 22.—In a debate on pending cossack legislation with Secretary Olander, of the Illinois state federation of labor, John M. Glenn, secretary of the Illinois Manufacturers' association, attempted to shift the blame for cossack agitation from the shoulders of big business to grafters.

Glenn avoided discussing the bill's details, while generalizing on the "menace" of "red" agitation. Secretary Olander then read the bill, section by section, and showed that it provides for a military police, appointed for life, who would have authority to serve over a military force that could raid any community "for any purpose or at any time" without any other authority than the governor.

Glenn wobbled under this array of facts and then declared that the whole trouble was caused by grafting politicians and labor misleaders men. He agreed that the strike feature of the bill was bad, and said the bill was not originated among business men, but had been conceived by a self-appointed committee of publicity agents who used it as a means to solicit "big" financial contributions from business men. He said this so-called "committee" was composed "a lot of bunk" and that they "had fallen for the bill."

This surprising confession comes at a time when the state is aroused by the activities of the "committee" everywhere became voters—and immediately after that historic event?"

DEFEAT MINE CAVE BILL.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 23.—The state senate has killed the cave bill that would regulate mine cave-ins. Residents of the anthracite coal region urged the measure because of numerous fatalities. In explaining the bill Senator Slavin said:

"The coal companies have repeatedly called attention to the enormous value of their underground property, but the life of one small child in Pennsylvania should be worth more to the people than wealth than all the coal that remains underground."

The senator detailed instances of families asphyxiated in their beds by gas that leaked from broken gas pipes and mains. He said conditions existing menace the lives of the residents of the anthracite district, where people are fearful to go to bed at night.

It was shown that schools were destroyed because of these cave-ins and the public was helpless. The bill were left without redress.

One senator declared that under the law it is not a crime for a coal company to steal the coal under the surface belonging to the people. It is a crime for a man on the surface to steal a shovelful of the fuel from his neighbor.

In attacking the bill Senator Lyon said: "Mr. Slavin, the paper who has invested their capital and are using their property in a perfectly legitimate way."

RENT LAW IS UPHELD.

Washington, April 23.—By a 5 to 4 vote the United States supreme court has upheld the Ball rent law, thus placing the federal government to protect tenants in the District of Columbia. The law has been treated as a scrap of paper by landlords, who must now retain rents in excess of rates ordered by the rent commission. The landlords are contesting for the law to expire next October. Friends of the law will urge its extension.

The majority of the supreme court judges declared that the laws fierring police power justified the restriction of property rights without compensation in cases of public emergency.

The minority—Justices White, McKenna, Van Devanter and Pitney-Reynolds—insisted that the law "is contrary to the rights of contracts and leases as accepted all over the world."

The main feature of the act provides for a rent commission with full authority to fix and adjust the powers of a court to decide questions of rent and ouster proceedings

HAZY STRIKE STATISTICS.

Boston, April 22.—In compiling a record of wage losses, through strikes in the United States, Bradstreets department of labor and industries says:

"It should be borne in mind, however, that this loss in wages was in some instances offset by increased loss to employes, because a large number of them secured increases in wages which in part, at least, offset, in part at least, the loss sustained by the strike. In other instances the accumulation of orders for establishments where a strike or lockout is in effect results in the operation of the plants for an increased number of hours per day, thus affording opportunity for the employes to increase their earnings, for a short period."

WANT WHITE AMERICA.

Washington, April 23.—Congress has received a petition from citizens of the Utah legislature in which opposition to oriental aliens is expressed. The western states are interested in any treaty with an oriental nation that would restrict the immigration to the nationals of that country.

"Their oriental allies," it is stated, "will always remain separate and distinct from our own people, and there can never be any blending between them and the white people that would be successfully crossed, and other presence in large numbers in our midst will always be a constant menace."

CLOAK MAKERS WIN.

Cincinnati, April 23. — After a three-months' strike of cloakmakers employed by Bishop, Sterne & Stein, the leading shop in the city, have returned to work. All of their demands have been granted. The contract calls for a 44-hour week, a minimum scale, with other details to be arbitrated.

REJECT WAGE CUTS.

New York, April 22.—Marine engineers employed on trans-Atlantic, trans-Pacific and coastwise boats flying the American flag have rejected an agreement proposed by the shipping board which calls for materially cut wages, lengthen hours, and establish the open-union shop.

MOBBERS CALLED UPON TO FACE TRIAL COURT

New Orleans, April 23.—After refusing to technicalities for 18 months Federal Judge Foster has ordered the city of Bogalusa, the great southern Lumber company and other persons sued for damages as the result of killings at Bogalusa, in November, 1919, to stop fighting for delay and get ready for trial. It will probably be another year before the mobbers can be placed on the witness stand and forced to tell of their connection with the murder of several union organizers and the attempted lynching of Sol Dacus, influential negro in Bogalusa, who urged fellow negro workers to stand with the white workers in the mill strike of that year.

The suits were started by the widows of the murdered unionists. In the case of Deputy Sheriff Williams the charge is made that he was beaten to death because he refused to quit his business of draying and return to work in the mill.

The widows charge that their husbands were killed for the "sole purpose of destroying organized labor" in Bogalusa, and that the company sounded the mill's siren whistle to summon Williams.

The mob first went to the home of Dacus, but the negro hid in the swamp, and with the aid of white workers made his way to New Orleans, where he later died. Previously When the mob failed to find Dacus his home was destroyed by fire, family terrified and $1,300 worth of war savings stamps stolen.

The suits are filed by the headquarters of the unionists, and a demand made that the Bogalusa unionists replied that he was not there and the mobbers were invited to search the building. Later they fired with shot guns, rifles and revolvers, killing five defenseless unionists.

STOCKHOLDERS BACK GARY.

New York, April 22.—At their annual meeting in this city of steel the stockholders pledged support to Judge Gary in any "future conflicts" with labor unions.

The majority of the stockholders were represented by proxy. The large banking and other interests, who declared that they are willing to pay "a price" to maintain the right of each American citizen" to "labor without interference" were players.

The prospect of a single wage earner being denied the right to enter into contract with the gigantic steel trust aroused no interest. Practically all of them "have a right to their fortune and their sacred honor" to resist "any interference" in the conduct their opinion when employes become 100 per cent organized.

WANTS TO TELL MORE.

San Francisco, April 22.—John McDonald, star witness for the Mooney prosecution in the trial of Tom Mooney can tell more of what he knows about the Mooney frame-up. It is said by the San Francisco Call. McDonald says when he came here from Chicago he was given to understand that he would be given immunity from perjury prosecution. He was told that no one would be held for perjury if he confessed that he committed perjury in the Mooney trial. Later this pledge was withdrawn, and he left San Francisco and returned to the east. Now he wants to come back, if the grand jury will hear his story.

The letter he says: "I don't see how Captain of Police Gott expected me to keep my mouth shut and not make a statement, as he was Pickerts friends, man on the witness stand. Pickert was employed attorney at the time of the trials.

RAISE COSSACKS' PAY.

Charleston, W. Va., April 23. — The state legislature has increased the number of its state cossacks from 150 to 300 and has asked for this strike-breaking crew. In opposing the bill Senator Goshorn said: "I consider that a measure such as this one will lead to military rule in this state. It will be a blot on the escutcheon of the German military style of government, but rather than see strikes in the state justified I will vote for the bill."

The bill will increase the state expenditures $1,000,000 a year. Gunmen for the coal owners will now receive $18 a day from the state, while a school teacher may receive $90 a month and pay its own expenses.

DARING ENGINEERS.

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 23.—A daring attempt to wreck a passenger train in this city when a nine-story modern building, filled with hardware, was leveled a distance of 75 feet by 12 laborers. Ninety-pound rails, 120 of them, were the missiles with which the structure was moved. The sidewalks and basement of the building including a big steel boiler that continued to function. Not a window was broken in the building, went along with the rails. Only a few persons passed to and from the building, so though nothing was happening.

SALES TAX IS LARCENY.

Washington, April 23.—"The proposed sales tax would be larceny," said Thomas Ryan, representative of the International Association of Machinists.

The unionist calls attention to a statement by an advocate of the sales tax before a senate finance committee on ways and means. The advocate said that the workers could not pay the tax had the advantage of "merely refraining from consuming."

PLUMBERS HOLD PRICES.

Clarksburg, W. Va., April 22. — A short plumbers' strike in this city convinced employers that these workers are masters when they refused to reduce wages 10 cents an hour. The old rate has been restored.

HUGE OIL PROFITS.

New York, April 23.—The Atlantic Refining company reports last year's clear profits were $19,121,694, the book value of $47,181,694 in this sum being $16,121,694 $127 a share of common stock. Profits in 1919 equalled $177 a share.

MR. GOMPERS IS MARRIED.

New York, April 22. — Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., and Mrs. Gertrude Ainsley Oleson Neumiller, of this city, were married Saturday morning, April 16, at a hotel in this city. The ceremony was performed by Judge Robert Wagner, Mr. Gompers personal friend and also a member of the New York factory inspection commission. Mrs. Gompers is the daughter of Andrew and Ann Jane Gleaves of Jamestown, N. Y., where she was born November 23, 1882. She is an exceptionally gifted artist and musician.

Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at which only the bridal friends were present. Mr. and Mrs. Gompers departed at noon for Toronto where Mr. Gompers is scheduled to speak to address the Empire club. A reception of the national association of manufacturers recently addressed the club which at once resolved to "condemn" Gompers and trade union position.

Mr. Gompers ago Miss Gleaves married unhappily, as it proved. A separation followed. Last year proceedings for divorce were filed and a decree was secured without publicity. Gompers and his bride will spend several years say at Trenton, where Mr. Gompers had gone to deliver an address. At a subsequent visit also to deliver an address, he again met Mrs. Gleaves and a new friendship was established with the family. Last fall Mr. Gompers met Mrs. Gleaves in this city and the friendship then ripened rapidly into love. The marriage of the labor leader was announced to close friends. Mr. and Mrs. Gompers will make their home in Washington.

OPPOSE STATE MACHINE.

Albany, N. Y., April 22.—At a special convention of the New York state federation of labor, plans were perfected to wage on the state machine of the dominant political party, which was declared to be a "political conspiracy to destroy the American labor union and reduce the American wage worker to peonage."

In an address to the convention President Gompers declared that the anti-labor legislation, passed by the New York state legislature, is "simply proof of a determination to establish an industrial autocracy in this country." He declared that the attempt would be defeated by organized labor, as the militaristic spirit of Europe had been destroyed in the great war.

The convention also declared in favor of a state law to prevent strikes in the form of lockouts, and commended the action of the legislature in refusing to accept lower standards of living of workers. "Shall our standards for themselves?" asks J. R. Clynes, trade unionist and British food controller during the war.

"It would be a monstrous thing," he said, "for employers to insist on wage reductions without also agreeing to some reduction in the cost of living. Workers do not share in profits, and in those heavy charges which trade and commerce bear because of big salaries to the men at the top and the exactions of land and property owners who live by the workers' standard of life is to be reduced to the standards of orders should not be without limit."

ELECTRIC TRACTION NEXT.

Baltimore, April 22.—"The steam locomotive is doomed," declares Business. Electric traction can do the same work better and at a saving of two-thirds of the coal required by steam locomotives, declared Dr. Hugo Steinmetz, electrical scientist, in an address in this city.

The electrical engineer knows the value and saving of electricity, but the change has not been delayed because railroads cannot secure sufficient capital to buy the equipment.

FAST RAILROAD TRAVELING.

Philadelphia, April 23.—All railroad passengers between this city and New York were broken when a special train on the Phila. & Reading road made a run of the 90-mile run in 80 minutes, an average speed of one-eighth miles a minute. On certain stretches along the route the train traveled nearly two miles a minute.

ROAD HAS BANNER YEAR.

Chicago, April 23.—The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad announces that after year was its most profitable since 1916. There was a clear profit of $7,071,616 in 1920 after all charges and taxes were paid.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" PLAN IS TENDER TO BOSSES

Washington, April 23. — Senator Borah today introduced his bill to make interstate commerce strikes illegal. This bill slipped through the senate at the last session, when half a dozen members were present, but was held in the senate by a parliamentary move of its opponents and congress adjourned without taking action.

The bill provides for a fine of $10,000 or 10 years' imprisonment, or both, for any one who "shall by word of mouth, or by the presentation, exhibition or publication of written or printed words, or otherwise, solicit, advise, incite or persuade, or attempt to induce or persuade any person or persons, employed by any common carrier subject to the act to regulate commerce" to quit their employment.

In another section of the law a punishment of $500 or six months' imprisonment is provided where managers or employes combine with the intent to "unlawfully" interfere with commerce.

Where the managers are involved less punishment is provided and the intent to interfere must be "substantially." In the section that makes it illegal for one worker to "attempt to induce" another worker to quit his employment there is no reference to "substantially," and a fine of $1,000 and six months' imprisonment. It is $10,000 and 10 years.

In other words it is twenty times as serious for one railroad employe to talk union to his fellow employment as it is for railroad managers to combine to "unlawfully" hinder transportation. The managers have an additional loophole to escape by being permitted to prove that their hindrance to commerce is not "substantial." As the workers's case he violates the law before commerce is hindered. If he is found guilty of the charge that he should quit, he is guilty under this law and can be jailed for 10 years.

REJECT COSSACK BILL.

St. Paul, Minn., April 22.—By a vote of 91 to 32 the house of representatives rejected a bill that would establish the cossack system in this state. The bill was drawn along the usual lines—take all police authority from the citizens all over the state and place it in the hands of a few men appointed by the governor.

Representative Miner dared the authors of the bill to ride by his side at the head. The claim that the bill would establish a bureau of identification for the use of farmers was ridiculed by the lawmaker, who added to a farmer he would be first expected this bureau, when established, would detect the criminals who have stolen horses and cattle from the farmers by driving down the roads of the commonwealth. He declared that it was not the petty thief who takes a sheep or a bushel of corn now and then that the farmer feared most, but the master criminals who have stolen many a big steer rate when they borrowed money on a mortgage and then sold the crop at a losing price. These were the criminals that the farmer wanted caught, and Miner declared that this bill would not bring to real criminals to justice because the bill was backed by this element.

TO FORCE HOUSE RENTING.

London, England, April 23. — In an attempt to stop landlords from refusing to rent houses in order that they may be sold at inflated prices, government officials have introduced a bill in parliament which would authorize local authorities to rent these houses.

If a house has remained unoccupied for three months, according to the bill, local authorities may make an order for compulsory hiring. The validity of the order is liable for testing without reconstruction and, if legality is established, the landlord will be entitled to any compensation for house compulsorily hired. Declaring that the proposed measure would be mutually agreed, provision is made for arbitration and that it involves no delay in taking over the house, as the authority concerned will be able to do so as soon as the order has been confirmed by the minister of health. Meanwhile the rent has been agreed or to not.

ARMOR MAKERS BLAMED.

Washington, April 22.—Senator Borah blamed armor makers for the increase in armament building during the present year. Borah is the author of a conference called by the people's reconstruction league, to be dicted a war with Japan in the next 10 years if the naval race now on between this country and Great Britain continues.

Senator Borah said that as a westerner he appreciated the prejudices of the west on the Japanese question, but that the international conference was called every difference between this country and Japan would yield to reason.

"What could Japan reply," he said, "to the proposal of the conference table, replying to a protest against the California land proposition because of big salaries to the men at the top and the exactions of land and property owners who live by the workers' standard of life is to be reduced to the standards of orders should not be without limit."

AID TO HOME BUILDERS.

Baton Rouge, La., April 22.—The annual convention of the Louisiana state federation of labor petitioned congress to pass the Lenroot-Esch bill to enable workers to secure cheap homes by co-operative means. The unionists declared for the eight-hour day on public work, and opposition to the appointment to the federal judiciary, as favored by some states of the state supreme court convention. "We believe the people of this state are capable of electing all public officials," the unionists said.

JAIL PETTY PROFITEER.

New York, April 23.—If a barber can be jailed in this city for five cents profiteering, how long will a how long would a millionaire profiteer have to stay behind the bars?

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Albany, Ga., April 22.—The annual convention of the Alabama federation of labor will soon convene in this city on Monday, May 16.

WOULD MAKE 'EM VOTE.

Boston, April 22.—A legislative committee has approved a compulsory voting measure under which failure to cast a ballot shall be fined unless satisfactory excuse is given.